

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 14 and 19 as follows.

Claim 14 (Amended). An *in vitro* assay kit for determining whether or not an individual has metastasized colorectal cancer by detecting the presence of ST receptor protein in a sample of extraintestinal tissue and/or body fluids from an individual, [the presence of said ST receptor protein is present in said sample,] wherein the presence of ST receptor protein in said sample indicates that individual has metastasized colorectal cancer, said kit comprising:

a container comprising antibodies specific for ST receptor protein;

instructions [instruction] for using said kit, said instructions indicating steps for

performing a method to detect the presence of ST receptor protein in said sample and

analyzing data generated by said method, wherein said instructions indicate that the presence of ST receptor in said sample indicates that the individual has colorectal cancer.

Claim 19 (Amended). An *in vitro* PCR assay kit for determining whether or not an individual has colorectal cancer by detecting the presence of mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in a sample

of extraintestinal tissue and/or body fluids from an individual, the presence of said ST receptor protein is present in said sample, wherein the presence of said mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in said sample indicates that individual has colorectal cancer, said kit comprising:

a first container comprising PCR primers that specifically amplify mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein;

a second container comprising a size marker, said size marker being the expected size of amplified DNA if said mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein is present in said sample; and

instructions for using said kit, wherein said instructions indicate steps for

performing a method to detect the presence of mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in said sample and

analyzing data generated by said method, wherein said instructions indicate that the presence of mRNA that encodes ST receptor protein in said sample indicates that the individual has colorectal cancer.

REMARKS

Claims 9-19 are in the application.

Claims 9-19 have been rejected.

By way of this amendment, the specification and claims 14 and 19 have been amended.